

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

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Volume 4  
Issue 4 *Fall*

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Article 8

1973

# Parts

Wendy Louise Parrish

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## Recommended Citation

Parrish, Wendy Louise. "Parts." *The Iowa Review* 4.4 (1973): 12-12. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1531>

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## PARTS

this is the part in the movie where the violins hum  
this is the part where we see no one in the room  
our eyes stumble over a chair as the light dims  
the door must be about to open  
this is where the answer is about to shed itself  
like a light across the screen  
we are at the center of the empty room we see  
even the curtains are waiting  
there is a voice about to emerge and ask  
is anybody there?  
and because we have tightened our throats so long  
it will seem like years before we speak

*Wendy Louise Parrish*

## THE ALARM

*for Steve*

A faulty burglar alarm goes off  
and you, still coiled in sleep my friend,  
rise to dial the manager.  
Police arrive. And in the end  
we all crawl back to bed. Four times—  
then, on the fifth, I hear your screams:  
my lawyer will call yours. Rocks  
will smash the windows of your dreams.  
Your anger sings. The singleness  
you wanted most flees, to return  
altered and in control. The alarm,  
the damned alarm rings on and on.